

IN THE CLAIMS:

All of the pending claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 12-14 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (currently amended) or (new). Please CANCEL claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please AMEND claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 12, and ADD new claims 13 and 14 in accordance with the following:

1-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for displaying a plurality of linked objects in a virtual three-dimensional space in accordance with field-of-view data, said field-of-view data defining a field-of-view and a viewpoint in said virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing object data; and

control means for generating images of said objects in accordance with said object data stored in said memory and rendering said generated images onto a two-dimensional frame, said control means rendering the image of one object and the image of a subsequent ~~another~~ object to which said one object is linked, wherein the image of said ~~other~~ subsequent object is rendered ~~before the~~ between a start of or after the and an end of rendering said one object ~~or between said start and said end of rendering~~.

5. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control means renders the image or partial images of said one object and the image of said ~~other~~ subsequent object in accordance with the distance from said viewpoint.

6-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method product ~~stored on a storage medium for use in an information processing apparatus and for displaying a plurality of linked objects in a virtual three-dimensional space in accordance with field-of-view data, said field-of-view data defining a field-of-view and a viewpoint in said virtual space, said program product method~~ comprising the steps of:

generating images of said objects in accordance with said object data, said object data being stored in a memory, and

rendering said generated images onto a two-dimensional frame, wherein the step of rendering comprises a sub-step of rendering the image of one object and the image of ~~another~~ subsequent object to which said one object is linked, wherein the image of said ~~other~~ subsequent object is rendered ~~before the~~ between a start of or after the and an end of rendering

said one object ~~or between said start and said end of rendering.~~

10. (currently amended) The program ~~product storage medium~~ according to claim 9, wherein the step of rendering comprises a sub-step of rendering the image or partial images of said one object and the image of said ~~either~~ subsequent object in accordance with the distance from said viewpoint.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method ~~for processing object data~~ for displaying a plurality of linked objects in a virtual three-dimensional space in accordance with field-of-view data, said field-of-view data defining a field-of-view and a viewpoint in said virtual space, said method being performed by a computer and comprising the steps of:

generating images of said objects in accordance with ~~said object data~~, said object data being stored in a memory and

rendering said generated images onto a two-dimensional frame, wherein the step of rendering comprises a sub-step of rendering the image of one object and the image of ~~another a~~ subsequent object to which said one object is linked, wherein the image of said ~~either~~ subsequent object is rendered ~~before the~~ between a start of or after the and an end of rendering said one object ~~or between said start and said end of rendering.~~

13. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of rendering comprises a sub-step of rendering the image or partial images of said one object and the image of said subsequent object in accordance with the distance from said viewpoint.

14. (new) An information processing apparatus for displaying a plurality of linked objects in a virtual three-dimensional space in accordance with field-of-view data, said field-of-view data defining a field-of-view and a viewpoint in said virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing object data; and

a control device generating images of said objects in accordance with said object data stored in said memory and rendering said generated images onto a two-dimensional frame,

said control device rendering the image of one object and the image of a subsequent object to which said one object is linked, wherein the image of said subsequent object is rendered between a start and an end of rendering said one object.